

**DOE Weekly Field Memo – June 3, 2009**

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**From the Department of Education:**

**NEWS: Vermont Joins Common Core State Standards Initiative**

**Audience: All**

Governor Jim Douglas and Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca made Vermont one of 46 states to sign the national Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) Common Core State Standards Initiative. By signing on to this Initiative, governors and state commissioners of education across the country are committing to joining a state-led process to develop a common core of state standards in English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. These standards will be research- and evidence-based, internationally benchmarked, aligned with college and work expectations and include rigorous content and skills. For more information visit <http://www.ccsso.org/>.

**Transformative Practices Funding Matrix**

**Audience: Administrators, Educators**

This two-page funding matrix highlights some of the multiple funding resources that may be combined to assist schools in implementing or expanding transformative practices. Examples include Response to Intervention, Secondary Transformation – including Drop-out prevention strategies, Positive Behavior Supports, and Responsive Classroom. For each area, we have highlighted some of the major pieces of work, equipment or activities that need to occur and be funded, and listed potential resources for supporting them. Visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/transformation.html#matrix>. Contact: Rae Ann Knopf, Vermont Department of Education ARRA Coordinator at (802) 828-0555 or [rae.knopf@state.vt.us](mailto:rae.knopf@state.vt.us)

**Transformative Initiatives Wanted**

**Audience: All**

If you are aware of or are involved with an initiative aligned with Transformation, the State Board is interested in hearing about what you are doing or possibly visiting your program. For more information about Transformation, visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/transformation.html>. Contact: Carol King at (802) 828-5101 or [Carol.C.King@state.vt.us](mailto:Carol.C.King@state.vt.us)

**School Health Screening**

**Audience: School Health Liaisons, Nurses**

Legislation has changed regarding school health screenings. This change is taking place to assure that all school health related screenings are aligned with current research and the best practice recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The only required, population-based, school health screening is for hearing and vision. Use the link below to view a chart indicating what grades should be screened. This document also contains information about body mass index (BMI) screening in schools and why they are not recommended best practice. Visit [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_health\\_services.html#screening](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_health_services.html#screening). Contact: Deb Quackenbush at (802) 828-5877 or [deborah.quackenbush@state.vt.us](mailto:deborah.quackenbush@state.vt.us)

### **Grant for Heart Rate Monitors in High School Physical Education**

**Audience: High School Physical Educators, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Superintendents**

The Vermont Department of Education will provide up to \$9,000 each for three high schools to purchase and implement heart rate monitors in physical education. (Funding is contingent upon legislative budget approval.) The goals of this competitive grant program are to: Document and increase the amount of time high school students spend engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity during physical education; Develop student self-knowledge, personal goal-setting and fitness-planning skills for lifetime physical activity; Develop students' 21st century skills of tracking, interpreting and evaluating personal physical activity effort with objective, technological measures. Deadline: September 18, 2009. For more information and to download a copy of the grant application visit

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_curriculum/physical\\_ed.html#monitor\\_app](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/physical_ed.html#monitor_app)

Contact: Lindsay Simpson, Physical Education Consultant, at (802) 828-1461 or [lindsay.simpson@state.vt.us](mailto:lindsay.simpson@state.vt.us)

### **Reminder and Training: 2009-2012 Technology Plans due June 30, 2009**

**Audience: Technology Coordinators, Principals, Superintendents**

This is a reminder that all Vermont school districts applying for any federal grants under Title IID and those filing for E-rate reimbursements must have a valid technology plan on file with the Department of Education. The 2009-2012 Local Technology plans are due June 30, 2009. Please e-mail a copy of the plan, and snail mail your signature page to Peter Drescher before that date. There are two more "help" sessions scheduled between now and then for schools and districts working on plans: June 10 at 3 p.m. and June 15, 3 p.m. These sessions will be advertised via School\_IT listserv and the Ed\_Tech list and are on the DOE Web Calendar. These sessions will be a combination of phone-in and Learning Network of Vermont, our videoconferencing system. For more information visit

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_edtech.html#plan\\_2012](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_edtech.html#plan_2012).

Contact: Peter Drescher (802) 828-5149 or [peter.drescher@state.vt.us](mailto:peter.drescher@state.vt.us)

Snail mail: Vermont Department of Education, 120 State St. Montpelier VT 05620-2501

### **From the Department of Health:**

#### **H1N1 Swine Flu Update: Important Guidance Regarding Schools**

**Audience: All**

A Vermont student in Chittenden County was confirmed to have novel H1N1 on Monday. The student was not hospitalized and has recovered. The number of confirmed cases in Vermont is now eight. The Health Department is working with the school, which notified parents.

The Health Department continues to advise anyone who is sick with flu-like symptoms (sore throat, bad cough, body aches or chills, fever of 100°F or more, extreme fatigue, sometimes vomiting or diarrhea) to stay home from work or school.

Extensive information, tools and resources about H1N1 flu, healthy habits and pandemic preparedness are available at the Health Department's Web site: <http://www.healthvermont.gov> or dial 2-1-1.

#### **Reminder: Department of Health School Liaison List 2009**

**Audience: All**

The State of Vermont school nurse consultant resides at the Department of Health. Currently Vermont Department of Health school liaisons have been assigned to specific supervisory union regions to provide technical assistance to school staff. Use the link below for a list of those liaisons:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_health\\_services.html#liaison](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_health_services.html#liaison)

### **From the Agency of Natural Resources:**

#### **Science on the Green**

**Audience: Educators, Administrators of Students Grades 4 through 8**

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 will be another Science on the Green in Waterbury. Also, the Science at the Hatchery will take place at the Pittsford National Fish Hatchery in North Chittenden, on Tuesday September 22, 2009. Registration will begin in August. This year the event promises to deliver all the successes of the past two years and more: Interactive environmental education, access to environmental experts and stewards plus FUN! For details on workshops, field trips and information about last year's events please visit <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/html/sotg/>. Workshop offerings and registration materials will be posted on the Internet beginning Wednesday, August 19.

Contact: Rob Farley at (802) 241-3412 or Rebecca Roy at (802) 241-3651

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html). Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.